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**Toxics in football field**

There are low levels of toxic chemicals in the soil beneath the Niagara Catholic High School football field, but not enough to be dangerous.

Tests of soil from the field revealed a few parts per billion of methylene chloride and trichloroethane and higher levels of several toxic metals, Steve Luftig of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced.

But the federal Centers for Disease Control determined that the concentrations are not unusual for North American soil and do not pose a health threat.

Luftig said that the chemicals present indicate the field was filled with ash from industrial burning.

Because one of the products of burning can be highly toxic dioxin, the EPA is testing another soil sample for dioxin, with results expected at the end of September.

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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
EPA-REGION II  
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REMEDIATION

# 60th Street testing plan draws fire

By LIBA AUG  
Niagara Gazette

The federal government's second plan to test for toxic chemical contamination in the 60th Street neighborhood is not good enough, residents say.

The proposal to drill 24 rather than 200 test wells draw charges of bungling and wrongdoing against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at Tuesday night's public meeting at the 60th Street school.

"I thought that you, the EPA, was here to protect us, but now you're jerking us around," one woman said. "I want to find out what we're living in and if it's safe for my kids."

"I have no reason to believe there is a threat to your health ... (but) I want testing

done on the groundwater," Steven Luftig of the EPA said. "I'd like to put these monitoring wells in, and many of you are angry with me for that."

The EPA first proposed installing 200 test wells in the neighborhood bounded by 50th Street, Niagara Falls Boulevard, Interstate 190 and Frostier Avenue. But it abandoned that plan after failing to collect permission to drill on private property from enough residents to make the random sampling plan work.

Several of the 90 people at the meeting, however, claimed that the EPA did not ask some residents and misled others with a confusing letter.

Luftig pointed out the new testing plan includes testing at different depths, for more

compounds and for soil as well as groundwater in answer to criticism from the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the state and county health departments.

But his claim that the 200-well program was doomed by the fear of some residents of lowered property values was derided as an excuse for scaling back the testing.

"People are not opposed to a comprehensive testing program," one woman said, and a man pointed out that wells could be dug on public property next to the street.

Luftig stressed that the 24 wells could be dug and samples analyzed by the end of the year, but not if the EPA has to revise the testing plan again.

"We do want something begun, but we

will keep the pressure on you to do the other things we want," said Tony Luppino of the Necco Park-Cocos Citizens Committee.

The proposed testing was prompted by local residents' fear that toxic chemicals may be entering their homes from DuPont Co.'s leaking Necco Park dump or CECOS International's hazardous waste landfills, both north of Niagara Falls Boulevard at 58th Street.

The EPA resisted such testing for months, but agreed after finding 15 other potential sources of toxic contamination in suspected dump sites in the area.

Six sites of the 24 proposed wells are not scattered throughout the area, but clustered directly south of Necco Park and CECOS.

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# Judge won't dismiss Canal suit

## Revitalization Agency must prepare answer to attorney general's complaint

By LISA AUG  
Niagara Gazette

State Supreme Court Judge Joseph Mintz has refused to dismiss the state attorney general's lawsuit against the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency.

The agency must now prepare its answer to the attorney general's original complaint that the agency is violating state law by planning to sell some vacant Love Canal houses.

"We probably won't appeal," Broderick said. "But I haven't analyzed the judge's decision from a legal point of view."

The June lawsuit asked the court for an order preventing the revitalization agency from selling six of its 275 Love Canal houses.

The agency countered by charging the attorney general has no right to intervene in the sale and asked that the lawsuit be dismissed. But Mintz rejected the agency's ar-

gument.

"So long as the action is one in which the state is interested, the attorney general is empowered, and indeed statutorily bound, to prosecute the action," Mintz said.

Agency members admit that the primary purpose of taking steps toward selling some of the houses is to force a speedier decision by state Health Commissioner Dr. David Axelrod as to whether the houses are sufficiently free of toxic contamination for peo-

ple to live there.

Attorney General Robert Abrams opposes any sale of houses until a state and federal study of the area's habitability is complete. The latest estimate puts the end of that study in April 1988.

The agency has already waited five years for that decision and fears its houses will deteriorate beyond repair in another three years.

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